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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,000	02/16/2001	Alison Lee	YOR920000110US2	4058

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LUIS J. PERCELLO
IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT.
P.O. BOX 218
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

EXAMINER	
PHAM, HUNG Q	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/785,000	LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HUNG Q PHAM	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 April 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Claims 1 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph in the Office Action, paper No. 11. However, only claim 1 was amended by canceling the rejected limitation. Therefore, the rejection of claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C is still maintained as the following action.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 25-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In particular, the step of ***collecting data representing a social category at a Web site*** in claims 25-27 were not described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

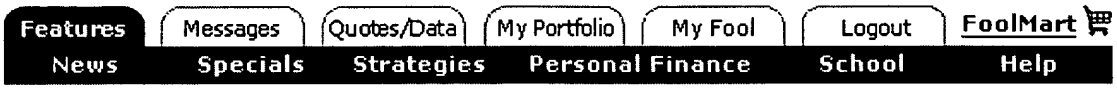
> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

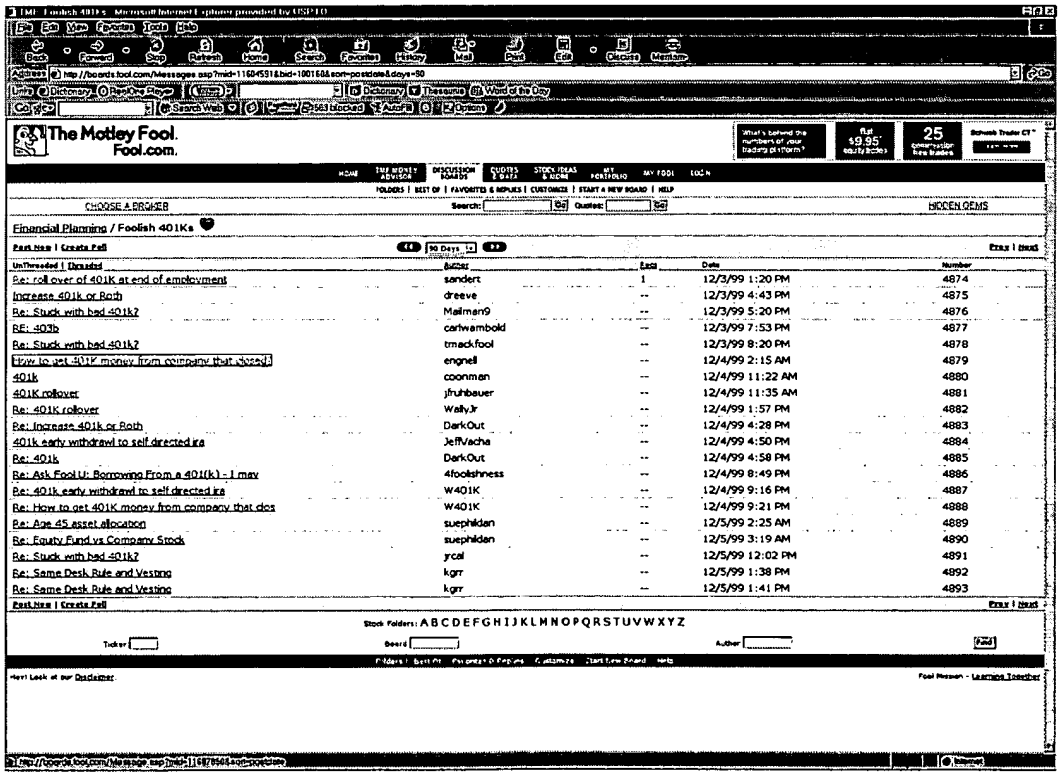
6. Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Motley Fool [The Motley Fool, http://web.archive.org/web/19990125085745/http://fool.com/].

Regarding to claim 1, the Motley Fool teaches a method for navigating the Internet and for facilitating user socialization web sites. As in the Motley Fool home page, the Motley Fool has ***an instance of mapping data structure for*** Motley Fool ***web site, data structure representing*** Features, Messages, Quotes/Data... as ***two or more categories,***

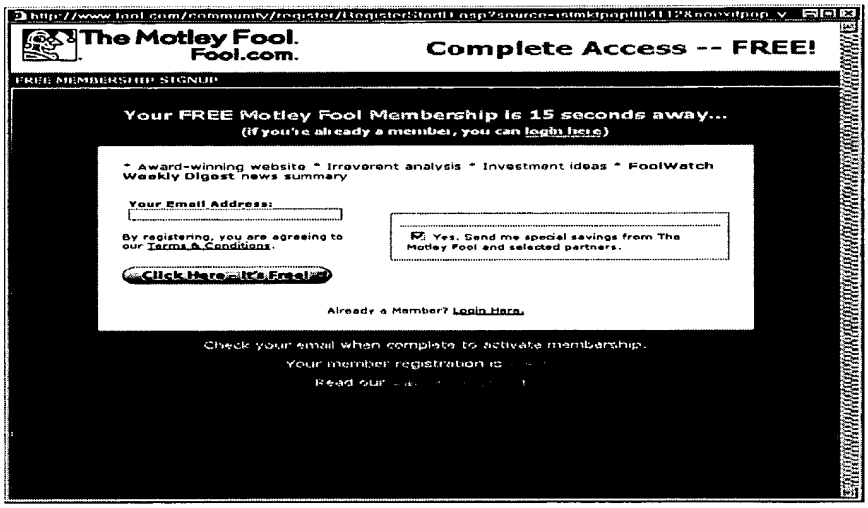
each of the categories, for example Features, ***divided into subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, each of the ordered levels of specificity being a grouping of subcategories of the same levels of specificity***, with a ***computed abstract geometric representation of said mapping data structure for facilitating user socialization*** as shown below:



An online social group could be created at Motley Fool by using bulletin boards to exchange idea in a particular topic such as 401(k) as an example. The 401(k) bulletin board is under Features/Money category and internally represents a semantic structure of contents of the Motley Fool



In other words, the 401(k) board as discussed illustrates the claimed ***data structure overlays information about people, activity, and social interactions at the web site onto an internal representation of a semantic structure of contents of the web site.*** The Motley Fool does not explicitly disclose the technique of ***populating said at least one mapping data structure by processing request addressed to said web site.*** However, in order to become a Motley Fool member, a user has to sign up by using a registration page.



As disclosed in the Motley Fool rules, *by becoming a Fool, you agree that The Motley Fool has an unlimited license to republish anything you post in our areas. We'll only republish your posts in context and we'll credit you (under your user name) as author. We also won't republish your posts for advertising purposes without your permission.* As seen, a member can post his/her own work, such as an articles, idea... in a particular category, and obviously, the request of posting process have to be addressed to the Motley Fool in order to get the Motley Fool's approval. In different words, the technique of posting a member's article in the Motley Fool indicates the step of ***populating said at least one mapping data structure by processing requests addressed to said web site.*** It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify

the Motley Fool method by including the step of processing the request addressed to the Motley Fool in order to share knowledge to other members in a particular categorized topic.

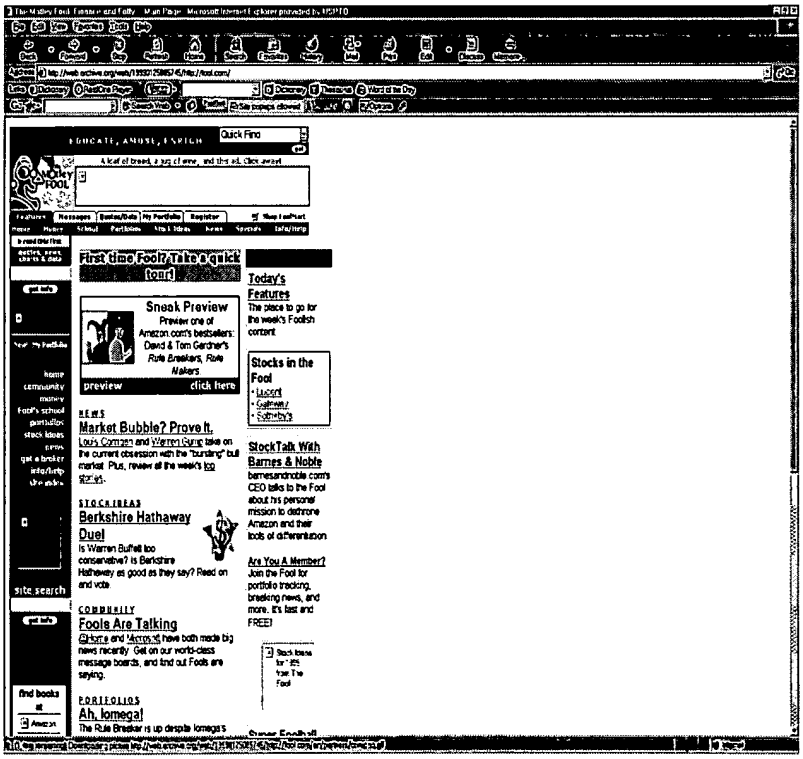
Regarding to claim 2, the Motley Fool teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the data structure includes one or more sections, the sections being logical intersections of one of the categories with one of the levels of specificity.***

Regarding to claim 5, the Motley Fool teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the categories include any one or more of the following: a product category, a service category, a category class, a category list, a product class, a list of products in a class, a product specification, a service class, a list of services, and a service specification.***

Regarding to claim 6, the Motley Fool teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, the Motley Fool further discloses: ***the levels of specificity include any one or more of the following: category class, category list, offering specification, product***

class, list of products in a class, product specification, service class, list of services, and a service specification.

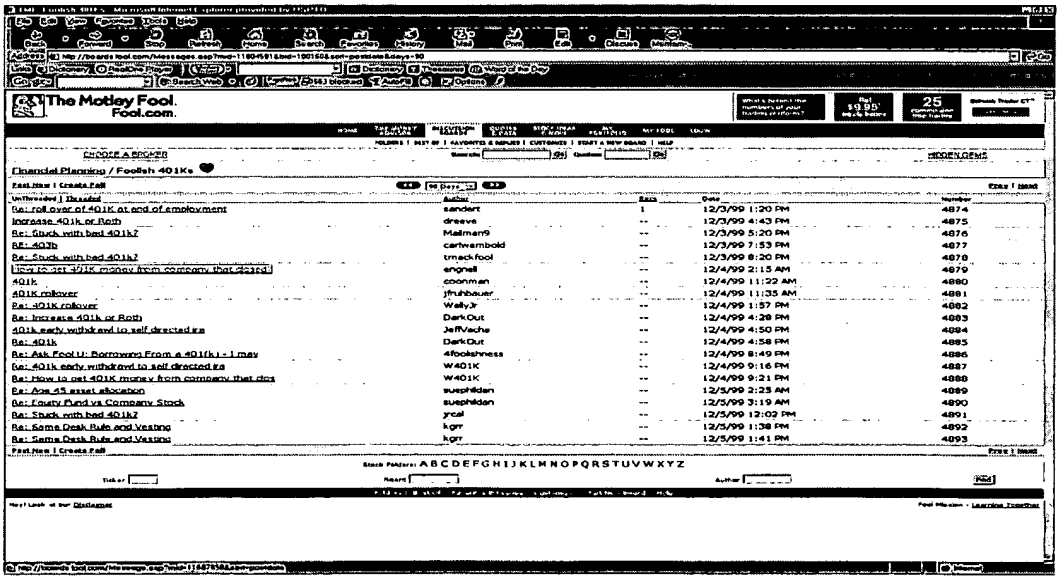
Regarding to claim 24, the Motley Fool teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the social information mapped in the data structure is served over one or more of the network connections for display of one or more visual districts on one or more clients.***



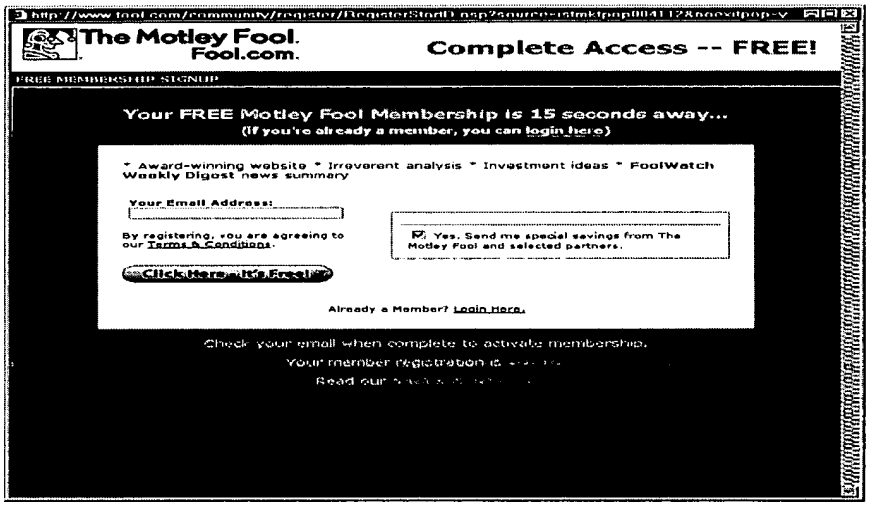
Regarding to claims 25-27, the Motley Fool teaches a method for navigating the Internet and for facilitating user socialization web sites. As in the Motley Fool home

page, the Motley Fool has ***an instance of mapping data structure for*** Motley Fool as ***a given web site, data structure representing*** Features, Messages, Quotes/Data... as ***two or more categories, each of the categories by dividing each of the categories into subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, dividing each of the ordered levels of specificity into a grouping of subcategories of same level of specificity***, and ***displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories in a visual, geometric pattern*** as shown below:

An online social group could be created at Motley Fool by using bulletin boards to exchange idea in a particular topic such as 401(k) as an example. The 401(k) bulletin board is under Features/Money category and internally represents a semantic structure of contents of the Motley Fool



In other words, the 401(k) board as discussed illustrates the claimed ***data overlays information about people, activity, and social interactions at the web site onto an internal representation of a semantic structure of contents of the web site***. The Motley Fool does not explicitly teach the step of ***collecting data representing a social category at a web site***. However, However, in order to become a Motley Fool member, a user has to sign up by using a registration page.



As disclosed in the Motley Fool rules, *by becoming a Fool, you agree that The Motley Fool has an unlimited license to republish anything you post in our areas. We'll only republish your posts in context and we'll credit you (under your user name) as author. We also won't republish your posts for advertising purposes without your permission*. As seen in the Motley Fool rules, the Motley Fool ***collects*** a member's ***data***, such as an article about 401(k) as discussed above, and obviously, the article ***represents*** Features/Money as ***social category at*** the Motley Fool as ***a web site***. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Motley Fool

method by including the step of collecting data representing social category in order to share knowledge to other members in a particular categorized topic.

7. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Motley Fool [The Motley Fool, http://web.archive.org/web/19990125085745/http://fool.com/] in view of Hazlehurst et al. [USP 6,289,353 B1].

Regarding to claim 3, the Motley Fool teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, but does not explicitly teach ***one or more subcategories have a degree of closeness relating the section to one or more other sections***. Hazlehurst teaches ***one or more subcategories have a degree of closeness relating the section to one or more other sections*** (Hazlehurst, FIG. 10A-B, Cols. 12-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the the Motley Fool method by including the degree of closeness as taught by Hazlehurst in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories.

Regarding to claim 4, the Motley Fool and Hazlehurst teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 3, Hazlehurst further discloses ***the degree of closeness relates to any one or more of following: a physical closeness of location of physical items represented by the respective sections, a relational closeness between one or more users***

and one or more objects, a relational closeness between one or more users, a semantic closeness of descriptions of items represented by the respective sections, and a behavioral closeness of pattern of use (Hazlehurst, FIG. 10A-B, Cols. 12-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Kawasaki method by including the relation of the degree of closeness as taught by Hazlehurst in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories.

8. Claims 7-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Motley Fool [The Motley Fool, **http://web.archive.org/web/19990125085745/http://fool.com/] in view of Nortel et al. [WebQuery: Searching and Visualizing the Web through Connectivity].**

Regarding to claim 7, the Motley Fool teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, but does not explicitly disclose the step of ***collecting information about one or more nodes located on one or more of the districts***. Nortel teaches a method for searching and visualizing the Web, Nortel further discloses the step of ***collecting information about one or more nodes located on one or more of the districts*** (Nortel, pages 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Motley Fool method by including the step of collecting information about one or more nodes as taught by Nortel in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories.

Regarding to claim 8, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 7, Nortel further discloses ***the nodes are differentiated by any one or more node functions*** (Nortel, pages 5-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Kawasaki, Yahoo and Nortel method by including the technique of differentiating the nodes in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories.

Regarding to claim 9, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 8, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the node functions include any one or more of the following: initiating a chat session, providing information, causing a user to be associated with a node location, providing access to sales information, providing access to a salesman, and changing a browser page to one that has information relating to the node*** (The Motley Fool's Rule).

Regarding to claim 10, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 7, and the Motley Fool is ***one or more of the nodes is a landmark that marks a salient location on one or more of the districts***.

Regarding to claim 11, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 10, the Motley Fool is ***the salient location is fixed and associated with one of a plurality of business categories***.

Regarding to claim 12, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 10, the Motley Fool is ***the salient location can change in time and is associated with an activity***.

Regarding to claim 13, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 12, the Motley Fool further discloses: ***the activity is one or more of the following: a current "hot spot", "a list of most popular pages in a computer section", a public chat, a sale, a special product offering, a special service offering, and a sales agent availability*** (the Motley Fool Homepage, the Motley Fool's rules).

Regarding to claim 14, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 10, the Motley Fool is ***the salient location is personally meaningful to the user***.

Regarding to claim 15, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 14, the Motley Fool as ***the salient location represents any one or more of the following: a user's buddy, a chat buddy, a private chat, a user's favorite***

spot, and a user with common interest (the Motley Fool Homepage, the Motley Fool's rules).

Regarding to claim 16, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 7, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the system comprising one or more paths, each path connecting two or more nodes.***

Regarding to claim 17, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 16, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the path links two or more of the nodes to associate connectivity relationships among the nodes.***

Regarding to claim 18, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 16, the Motley Fool further discloses ***a path is associated with one of the following: a user's path through one or more of the districts, a customer's path through one or more of the districts, a preferred path of a group of users through one or more of the districts, a preferred path of a group of users with common interests through one or more of the districts, and a preferred path of a group of users with complementary interests through one or more of the districts.***

Regarding to claim 19, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 7, Nortel further discloses ***one or more node sets, each node set containing one or more nodes clustered in nearby locations in one or more of the districts*** (Nortel, pages 3-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Motley Fool and Nortel method by including the feature of node sets in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories and retrieve a document from the Internet.

Regarding to claim 20, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 19, Nortel further discloses ***a node set represent a relationship among two or more nodes located in one or more of the districts*** (Nortel, pages 3-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Motley Fool and Nortel method by including the feature of node sets in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories and retrieve a document from the Internet.

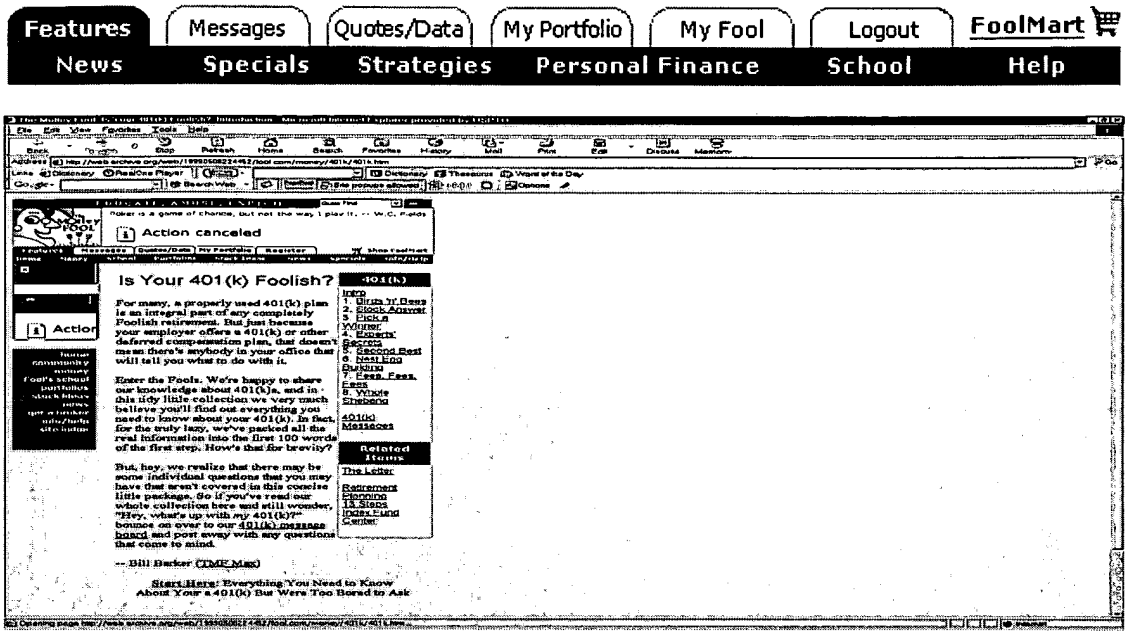
Regarding to claim 21, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 19, Nortel further discloses ***where one or more of the node***

sets is associated with one of the following: a density of users gathered in one or more adjacent node locations, a set of node locations marking results of a search, a set of node locations related by a semantic attribute, a set of node locations visited by a group of users with common interests, a set of node locations visited by a group of users with complementary interests, and a crowd of users (Nortel, pages 3-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Motley Fool and Nortel method by including the feature of node sets in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories and retrieve a document from the Internet.

Regarding to claim 22, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 19, Nortel further discloses ***one or more of the node sets has a node set function*** (Nortel, pages 3-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Motley Fool and Nortel method by including the feature of node sets in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories and retrieve a document from the Internet.

Regarding to claim 23, the Motley Fool and Nortel teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 22, the Motley Fool further discloses ***the node set function includes any one or more of the following: providing information about the set, changing a***

user's location to be associated with a node location in the set, and changing browser page to one that has information relating to a node in the set.



Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q PHAM whose telephone number is 703-605-4242. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Hung Pham
May 25, 2004

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER